

Remarks

The Office Action mailed August 3, 2006, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof. Claims 1-12 and 41-45 are cancelled. Claims 13-40 and 46-48 are pending and have been allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her comments regarding items OA, OC, and OF in the information disclosure statement filed May 17, 2006. Applicants will submit translations relevant to these documents, which illustrate their relevance to the presently pending claims when filing the below described supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Additionally, Applicants submit a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

The RCE is being filed, as discussed between the undersigned and the Examiner on November 3, 2006, to provide Applicants an opportunity to file a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) for the Examiner's consideration. The IDS, to be submitted in the next couple of weeks, is relevant to opposition proceedings occurring in Europe. The issued European patent being opposed is related to the currently pending application in that both claim the priority of the same previously filed application.

The rejection of Claims 41 - 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Jonstromer (U.S. 6,142,369) in view of Belpaire (EP 0777394) is respectfully traversed. Claims 41-45 are canceled herein. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 41-45 be withdrawn. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Slenker", is written over a horizontal line.

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